WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 SEPTEMBER 1985

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

WCHS ELECTS GALEN WILSON PRESIDENT, VOTES TO PRODUCE HISTORICAL CALENDAR

Galen R. Wilson, manuscript curator of the University of Michigan Clements Library of American History, was elected president of the Washtenaw County Historical Society at its annual meeting in May.

The Society voted to produce and sell 1986 calendars with sketches of historical buildings around the county by Bill Shurtliff, local artist, whose drawings appear weekly on the *Ann Arbor News* "Kiosk" page.

The resolution, approved 26-4, authorized spending $3,500 for a minimum order of 1,000 to be sold for $6 each.

After the meeting, the Chelsea Senior Citizen Kitchen Band entertained, playing a collection of old favorites on washboilers, tubs, spoons, kazoos and such plus song skits.

Other officers are Esther Warzynski, re-elected vice-president; Lucille Fisher, recording secretary; Lucy Kooperman, corresponding secretary; and Nancy Shuon, treasurer. Wystan Stevens is immediate past-president.

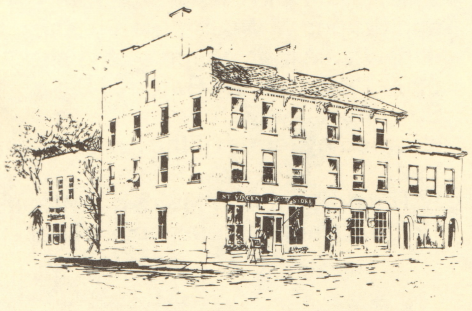
Patricia Austin, Gary Kuehnle, Louisa Pieper and Alice Ziegler were elected to three-year terms on the board, expiring in 1988. Arthur French and Peter Rocco will fill out terms expiring next year.

New to the Board are Kuehnle, an antiques and personal property appraiser and painting contractor, and Mrs. Pieper, who is staff director for the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission at Kempf House.

Kuehnle Street between Dexter and Miller is on what once was Kuehnle's great-grandparents farm.

Mrs. Schuon, acting treasurer, reported Society income for the year of $8,556.33, expenses of $4,147.27 and total cash assets of $61,996.56. Of that total, $41,372.22 was in the museum fund and $20,624.34 in general funds.

Resolutions were adopted thanking the American Legion for space for meetings, Emilie Polens, supervisor of Cobblestone Farm, for help with the "Century of Fashion" show and Anna Thorsch for keylining the *Impressions.*



CALENDARS FEATURE BUILDINGS COUNTY-WIDE

Calendars are available from President Galen Wilson at Clements Library, 909 South University Avenue, from 10:30-noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday through Friday as well as at meetings and from members for $6.

To order by mail send check or money order for $7 (includes $1 postage and handling) to: WCHS Calendar, Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Calendar drawings include the former Unitarian Church, the Anson Brown building, Henry Carter Adams house (former Ark) and the Noll house in Ann Arbor.

Others are the Glazier Clock tower, Chelsea; Dexter Cider Mill; Clements house, Dixboro; Hack House, Milan; Fosdick bungalow, Saline; Webster Church; Towner House and Welch Hall, Ypsilanti.

RUTH BORDI N TO WRITE NEW COUNTY HISTORY

Author Ruth Bordin, a research affiliate at the Bentley Library and formerly on the history faculty at Eastern Michigan University, will write the new history of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County that WCHS voted to sponsor.

She is author of *Women and Temperance: The Quest for Power and Liberty,* 1981, and *The University of Michigan: A Pictorial History,* 1967. She is co-author with Dr. Robert M. Warner of *Modern Manuscript Library.*

Ms. Bordin was curator of manuscripts at Bentley 1957-67 and on the EMU faculty 1967-79. She has an M.A. degree from University of Minnesota.

WCHS TO TOUR TUOMY HOUSE, STATE SOCIETY OFFICES SEPTEMBER 8

The Historical Society of Michigan, a state-wide non-governmental organization which traces its roots to 1828, has its headquarters in the 1850-1880's era Tuomy House at 2117 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor.

WCHS will visit Tuomy House at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, September 8. Thomas L. Jones, HSM executive director, will talk about the state society and the house in a welcoming talk outdoors. (Bring a lawn chair if you wish to be seated during the talk.)

A tour of the house and refreshments will follow. Although the house is used for offices and is not a museum, many of the Tuomy's antique furnishings remain.

The original Greek Revival style home built in 1850 was incorporated in the 1880's into the large Italianate structure of today.

CHELSEA INVITES WCHS TO ANTIQUE GARDENS PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 9

Chelsea Area Historical Society has invited all WCHS members to join them for a special program at 7:30 p.m., Monday, September 9, at the Crippen House at the Chelsea Methodist Retirement Home.

Scott Kunst, local historic landscape designer, will present "Antique Gardens: American Landscaping 1830-1930," illustrated with 250 slides of pioneer and Greek Revival gardens to 1860, the Victorian era, fences, plants etc.

The meeting room is on the ground floor — no stairs. Any members who would go if they had a ride please call 663-8826.

NEEDLEWORK EXHIBIT SET

Cobblestone Farm plans a special needlework exhibit, "My Heart, My Home" in October. It will be open 12-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

WCHS 'INVADES' CANADA

WELCOMED TO SITES OF NOT-SO-FRIENDLY PAST

A carefree group of tourists on the Washtenaw County Historical Society bus tour invaded Canada Saturday, June 9, and no one seemed to mind.

A Canadian customs official stepped onto the bus briefly to ask if all aboard were United States citizens. Only a few in front could actually hear the question over the buzz of conversation. The bus was waved on.

Long a friendly border, it wasn't always so.

Indeed the first stop on the tour was at the Francois Baby house in Windsor which was briefly occupied by American Brigadier General William Hull when he invaded Canada July 12, 1812. He withdrew August 8 and within a few days surrendered Detroit to the British.

While British General Brock crossed downstream on his way to Detroit, the Royal Artillery set up guns at Baby's to bombard Detroit.

Years later, the Battle of Windsor was fought in Baby's orchard, ending the "Patriot War" of 1837-38.

The Patriot War, usually listed in quotes, never really was a declared war, WCHS President Galen Wilson explained. "It really wasn't much of anything except it was real exciting at the time."

In the 1830's Canada was reworking its governmental system and there was a lot of unrest. Americans, inspired by a misguided notion of freeing the Canadians from British rule and perhaps also by hope of personal gain, jumped in to help.

Very few lives were lost but a lot of ill will resulted. The Americans built Fort Wayne at Detroit to guard the coast. The British re-fortified Fort Malden.

Much of the ill will stemmed from the Battle of Windsor, December 4, 1838. About 135 men seized a steamer, the *Champlain,* crossed to Canada, and about 2 a.m. set fire to military barracks, a guard house and the steamer *Thames,* according to *Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State.*

Several sleeping soldiers burned to death, others were shot as they escaped the burning building. A strong Canadian militia force moved against the invaders. The raiders broke and fled. Twenty one were killed and four taken prisoner. The prisoners were lined up and shot.

FORT MALDEN
Guides, dressed as 19th century British soldiers with muskets.

The Baby house, now in the shadow of Cleary Auditorium and the Hilton Inn, is maintained as the Hiram Walker Historical Museum of local history.

Hiram Walker is said to have established the first large scale industry on the Canadian shore in 1858, a distillery. The Baby house was restored and opened as the Hiram Walker Museum in 1958, the company's centennial year.

The museum contains a variety of things from southwest Ontario—an early printing press, 19th and early 20th century women's costumes, a display, "The Wages of Sin," with wrist irons, leg irons, gibbet irons, a gallows and trap door.

Also on display are furniture and tools including a black walnut dish dresser, 1820 walnut cradle, 1820 cherry corner cupboard, a grain bin hollowed out in a buttonwood or sycamore tree segment, an all-oak washboard (no metal), as well as items from a nearby archaeological dig.

From the Baby house tourgoers could stroll across Riverside Drive to see Windsor's riverfront Dieppe Gardens and a superb view of the Detroit skyline.

The bus then headed south 18 miles on Highway 18 along the river to Amherstburg for lunch in the restored 1849 building housing the Navy Yard Restaurant.

Thomas Salmoni first erected it for a hotel, mercantile and ship's chandler business.

The three-story building, added to three times, has more than 40 rooms plus a vaulted ceiling ballroom on the third floor (not open to visitors). Harriet Beecher Stowe was once a guest there.

In 1979, Mike and Lillian Duffy bought and renovated it. They salvaged and re-used all 12 fireplaces, the black walnut bannisters, spindles, newel posts, and 12 inch baseboards.

Portions of a four-foot diameter stone tunnel were uncovered. As southern perimeter walls of the original fort extended to the site, there is speculation it may have been an escape tunnel to the river.

Fort Malden and the Navy Yard were established near the mouth of the Detroit River on the Canadian side opposite Bois Blanc (Bob-Lo) Island after the British finally had to leave Detroit in 1796.

Here they maintained their defenses and almost the same close ties with the Indians and fur trade as they had earlier on Michigan soil.

The ships, *General Hunter* and *Queen Charlotte,* which took part in the capture of Detroit, were built at the Malden Navy Yard, as was the *Detroit,* flagship of the British fleet, which was defeated by Commodore Perry in the decisive Battle of Lake Erie.

Some tourgoers walked to the partly restored fort from the restaurant, passing by the Park House Museum which was originally built in 1796 near the Rouge River.

When the British left Detroit, the House's Loyalist owner dismantled and moved it to Amherstburg where it was rebuilt around 1799. It is of solid log French frame construction with clapboard siding, cedar shake roof and a fireplace at each end.

Over Fort Malden today fly the Canadian Maple Leaf flag, the British Union Jack and the 15-star Stars-and-Stripes of William Henry Harrison, whose men occupied the site of Malden after the Battle of Lake Erie until July 1815, when it was returned by terms of the peace treaty.

The present Fort Malden National Historic Park contains about 11 ac-

res on the riverfront with remains of original earthworks, two exhibit buildings and restored barracks. The fort played an active role in the War of 1812 and Patriot War of 1837-38.

Following an introductory slide show in the visitor Reception Center, tourgoers were free to view the exhibits and grounds, visit the restored barracks and cookhouse, where fresh churned butter could be sampled on bread, as well as see a musket shooting demonstration.

Two uniformed young men did the manual of arms exercises the soldiers had to do daily and the ceremonial prime and load before shooting.

The musket weighs ten pounds, the spokesman said, and would only fire about 6 out of 10 times. "It it's very windy or raining, it will dampen the powder and it won't spark.

"The black powder we are using leaves a very thick residue," he said. It builds up very quickly on the flint so you always have to wipe your flint off to make sure it's nice and clean so it will spark.

"Also, from use, the flint gets very dull so you have to sharpen your flint a lot.

"The ceremonial prime and load was done when soldiers first entered battle. When they saw the enemy they'd be lined up in rank and file and began loading the musket following these elaborate instructions and orders.

"Once the musket was loaded, they'd advance within range of the enemy and then they'd fire the first shot. Following that they would do what was called the quick load. A good soldier could quick load his musket in about 15 seconds.

"Usually after firing numerous rounds they'd have their bayonet fixed and usually fight the conclusion of the battle with their bayonet in hand-to-hand combat.

"The bayonet is very long—17 inches. Because it's triangular, after you were run through you were usually left for dead on the battlefield because a surgeon couldn't sew up that kind of wound.

"Quite often before going into battle, they would infect the bayonet by dipping it into a compost or manure pile. The shot they used were round lead bails. If you don't remove the lead from the body, you die of lead poisoning."

PARK HOUSE MUSEUM
Built near Rouge River 1796. Loyalist owner moved it to Amherstburg when British left Detroit. Now sits near Fort.

They were wearing the red wool jackets the soldiers had to wear year around. "Once given the jacket, you had to keep it two years. The only way you could clean it was spot clean it or brush it."

They wore white summer-issue pants. The soldiers used to wear gray wool pants in winter. Their hats were black bell shaped shakos. A straight-sided stovepipe type was also used.

The shakos sit high on the head because men at that time only averaged 5 foot 5 to 5 foot 6 inches. On an open battlefield you'd want to look taller to your enemies.

The barracks is stocked with replicas that people can handle and try on. The backpacks that men wore into battle weighed approximately 60 pounds, he said. They had a mess kit, extra blanket, uniform, boots, food, ammunition and other provisions.

There were no left and right boots then, "so you rotated your boots every day."

Dress uniforms were used only about ten per cent of the time—into battle or on special occasions and holidays. The rest of the time they wore their forage uniform with pillbox hat.

Soldiers normally had to drill six hours daily. It was hard labor, nonstop. They weren't permitted to sit during that time. The average soldier was paid 10 cents a day. A bottle of beer cost a penny.

A soldier could be fined up to 7 cents a day for any infraction—dirty button or uniform or smoking in the streets. The money was usually spent for booze.

The British soldier got one pound of meat a day and a half pound of bread. Usually they would go together in groups of 10 or more and make one big stew. In summer they had vegetables from the garden, in winter it would be almost strictly a meat diet.

For recreation they had draughts (checkers) and cards. The cards had no letters or numbers on them—"they wanted to keep the British Army sort of ignorant so they wouldn't be able to disobey orders."

"They tried to keep the desertion rate down by doing this but there actually was a very high desertion rate in the British Army."

After the Battle of Lake Erie the British burned Fort Malden and retreated eastward. They were beaten in the Battle of the Thames and Chief Tecumseh was killed.

After 1815, the British re-occupied the Malden site and rebuilt a smaller fort on the ruins. Its significance declined and forces were withdrawn in 1836. After the unrest in 1837, it was rebuilt and garrisoned.

By 1851, British regulars were withdrawn and replaced by enrolled pensioners, retired soldiers who were able to maintain it. Many small cottages were provided for them near the fort. One was open for inspection.

SAUK TRAIL ENDED AT AMHERSTBURG

Highway 18 south from Windsor to Amherstburg, Ontario, along the Detroit River is the lower end of the Great Sauk Trail.

Indians from the midwest crossed southern Michigan and the Detroit River to Amherstburg every year to receive presents from the Great White Father (King of England). These included provisions, rum, cloth, tobacco and ammunition for hunting.

In pioneer days in Michigan, Washtenaw citizens were annually fearful during this trek.

The fort was turned over to the Province of Canada in 1855, and four years later was used as a lunatic asylum. After 1875 the buildings and grounds were used for a lumber and planing mill. By the end of World War I the site was subdivided for residences.

It was recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1921 as of national historic significance. A small park was established in 1939.

The Interpretation Center, which once was the laundry and cooking facility for the lunatic asylum, now houses two floors of exhibits.

Among the items on display are a beaded belt and strongbox used by Tecumseh and a sturdy twisted cane of Simon Girty, whom they call an interpreter with the British Indian department. On the other side of the river he was thought of in much stronger terms—such as traitor or Dirty Girty.

In the Civil War era, fugitive slaves made their way through the underground railroad in the U.S. to freedom in Amherstburg, the southernmost Canadian town.

Today theire is a North American Black Historical Museum in Amherstburg.

During prohibition, illegal liquor moved in the other direction across the river to the United States.

High Hopes: CITY FOUNDERS ENVISIONED STATE CAPITOL ON ANGELL HALL SITE, DISLIKED FEDERALISTS, ANSON BROWN HORNING IN ON THEIR DOMAIN

If early plans of Ann Arbor founders John Allen and Elisha Rumsey had materialized, the state capitol would now be sitting in place of Angell Hall.

The first printed map of Ann Arbor by J.F. Stratton in 1836 shows a statehouse square there and a jail square on the Federal Building site.

The map was part of a display of Ann Arbor-Washtenaw County history at Clements Library for Preservation Week, assembled by new Society President Galen Wilson.

It dealt with many facets of local history. Material from the Michigan Historical Collections at Bentley Library, WCHS and Dr. Frank Whitehouse's postal collection as well as from Clements were on display.

The founders' political sympathies were "transparent in the absence of Federalist John Adams' name from the succession of 'Presidential' streets: Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe," Wilson noted.

John Allen's own sketch of Ann Arbor in 1825 shows William Street on the south to North Street, later renamed in honor of Mayor James Kingsley, and First Street on the west to Fifth Street on the east with Allen Creek at the west edge of town.

In a letter dated at "Ann Arbour, February 20, 1825," John Allen describes for his mother the new settlement. A year before "there was not an inhabitant within ten miles ... now in the village and neighborhood there is between thirty and forty families."

"Our water is of the purest limestone ... the river the most beautiful I have ever beheld." He describes a mild winter with "ploughing" in January.

"We live in a small log house with but one room down and one up stairs (or ladder rather) with a good fireplace and cooking stove, by which Ann does the work of our family with care, and none to fret or put her out of temper."

An 1826 map of Michigan Territory by John Farmer shows 12 named counties. One a decade later shows 35 counties. Port Lawrence of 1826 became Toledo in 1836 and is shown as part of Michigan.

"Washtenaw County's 40 townships in 1826 were cut to 20 by 1836 with the formation of Livingston, Ingham, and Jackson counties."

An 1825 deed for land in Lima township was signed by President John Quincy Adams. "His successor in office, Andrew Jackson, eventually commissioned someone to sign such deeds on his behalf."

Broadside land sale advertisements (Ypsilanti, 1827 and Ann Arbor, 1837) promised easy terms. Lucius Lyon wanted to sell 100 Ypsilanti lots. Ann Arbor had 1,000 village lots and 100 outlots within a mile of the village.

1850 Most of the county's adults in 1850 were born elsewhere—New England, Virginia, Great Britain or Germany.

Letter writers wrote territorial representative Lucius Lyon (1800-1851) for newspapers reporting activities of Congress, 1833. Others wrote home. Jerry C. Van Ryper described his new home and land in Lodi township near Saline with not a single punctuation mark. Jakob Aprill wrote home to Wurtemberg from "Annaber."

The Society loaned the Bible of Johann Georg and Elisabeth Katherine Allmendinger, a German family which rose to prominence.

In 1030 came Anson Brown, who, with his brother-in-law Edward Fuller, platted 1830 a "Lower Town" which he intended to become the commercial hub of Ann Arbor. Streets were named after New York City thorofares—Broadway, Wall Street and Maiden Lane.

Lower Town was annexed in 1832 and Brown managed to get ap-1833 ed post master in October 1033, moving the office to his "elegant, three-story brick retail complex on Broadway."

"The Allen-Rumsey hilltop settlement to the south protested loudly, but it was cholera that won the day for them by carrying Anson Brown off in September, 1834."

Brown's hotel/post office/general store still stands, Ann Arbor's oldest extant building. It now houses the St. Vincent de Paul store.

One of Brown's letters to Lucius Lyon slinging mud at John Allen and Judge Samuel William Dexter (1792-1863) was on display.

"Before settled churches were established in the county, religious services were sporadic, largely depending on itinerant or semi-permanent missionaries to preach and administer the sacraments."

"Missionary Friedrich Schmid was sent by the Basel (Switzerland) Evangelical Missionary Society at the request of Washtenaw County German Lutherans. He preached his first sermon in the area in 1833 and founded the first German Church organized in Michigan Territory.

The Rev. Mr. Schmid "became a settled pastor and his ministry here extended into the 1870's. In an 1839 deed, he and his wife, Louise (daughter of German immigrant Heinrich Mann) sold land in Scio township."

Presbyterian Rev. William Page wrote on January 25, 1828, that "our meetings on the Sabbath continue large," in Ann Arbor.

"I have been to Ipsilanti a very flourishing little village about eight miles south of this place and was urgently solicited by some of its most influential inhabitants to obtain for them if possible a clergyman. The place is growing rapidly and is for an infant settlement quite healthy."

The Rev. Abel Brown (1810-1844), a missionary in the cause of anti-slavery and temperance, visited Ann Arbor in the summer of 1843 on a lecture circuit.

Later, Ann Arbor was *sending* missionaries. A special issue of the Methodist-Episcopal Congregation's *Mayflower* (May 10, 1883) on

pink silk carried news articles about its mission societies. The pink silk edition was for an art show at the church.

Not all the early missionaries were out to save souls. The Universalists believed that all people would be saved. The Rev. Nathaniel Stacy (1770-1868) was called by the Universalists at Ann Arbor in 1835. He remained until 1840.

After his first visit to Washtenaw County in August 1835, he wrote enthusiastically, "The country is good, beyond almost any that I have ever seen." He had visited Ann Arbor, Lodi, Dexter and Ypsilanti.

He describes "extensive fields of corn, waving to the gentle breeze, allmost boundless plantations groaning under a luxuriant and golden harvest."

His shopping list for a trip into town (Ann Arbor) included selling wheat, delivering chairs and buffalo skins, borrowing a book, settling a debt and selling a cow.

One of Stacy's hobbies was collecting stories of persons whose Calvinistic or evangelical beliefs resulted in their insanity. Displayed was an account in Stacy's hand of the confession of a Mr. Hurd "made delirious at a Methodist protracted meeting."

Stacy's marriage register, covering his entire ministry, contains several pages of Washtenaw County marriages, 1835-40.

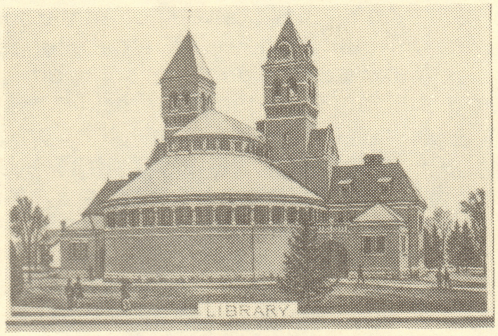
"The Toledo strip, a 526-square mile tract of land caught between two survey lines (1802 and 1805), both approved by Congress, was the object of a bitter controversy between the state of Ohio and the Territory of Michigan for more than 30 years.

"At stake was the mouth of the Maumee River and its access to Lake Erie."

"Its inhabitants called it 'one of the most prosperous and enterprising districts of the Western World." Territorial Representative Lucius Lyon dubbed it Michigan Territory's 'brightest jewel.' Governor Cass referred to 'a morass known by the name of the Black Swamp'."

"Opinion was divided in the disputed area itself. Bear witness, two postmarks from 1836: 'Toledo, Ohio' and Toledo, M(ichigan) T(erritory)."

An 1840 manuscript map shows the resurvey of the disputed land, and by its language—"Land lying



U-M LIBRARY CA. 1887
From Society's "Souvenir of Ann Arbor University."

between the Old and New State Lines"—almost seems to admit that Michigan's claim was legitimate, Wilson notes.

"One of the surest signs that a frontier town had begun to cast off its roughness was the importation of the arts. In May, 1827, teenager Miss Lucy Clark arrived in Ann Arbor bringing with her a piano. This instrument, now rebuilt and owned by WCHS, is currently housed in the Stearns Collection on the U-M North Campus."

Two bound volumes of sheet music belonging to Lucy Ann (1811-1856) and her daughter Frances E. Kingsley (1833-1909) were displayed along with *Allmendinger's New Method for the Reed Organ*, 1878, both belonging to WCHS.

"In 1830, Miss Clark married local politician James Kingsley (1797-1878). He built an opulent home on the street that now bears his name. Lucy's tombstone in Forest Hills Cemetery bears her maiden name. Their daughter, Frances, became the wife of Charles A. Chapin, the parents of Miss Lucy Chapin who gave many family things to the Society.

D.F. Allmendinger, third generation of German immigrants, operated the Ann Arbor Organ Co.

The organ now in Hill Auditorium was built in 1893 by the Detroit firm of Farrand and Votey for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The University acquired it the next year for $15,000. One hundred and sixteen stops and 3091 pipes made it one of the finest instruments in the midwest. The organ, since rebuilt and expanded, is still in use.

While the Civil War made a more lasting impression at home than any other 19th century war, Washtenaw citizens were in all of them. Even fourteen graves of Revolutionary soldiers who came here long after that war have been identified in the county.

One of them, Archibald Armstrong, as a 15-year-old drummed the death march at the execution of British spy Major John Andre, October 2, 1780. He is buried in Saline.

"Over 3,000 young men from Washtenaw County enlisted from 1861 to 1865, including 96 in the 102nd Colored Infantry. Four hundred and seventy-five Washtenaw men lost their lives.

"Patriotic stationery was popular both North and South, preaching the gospel of Union or Rebellion. A Union envelope postmarked in Ann Arbor, May 13, 1861, was one of the items from Dr. White house's collection.

The sword of Captain John A. Clark of Chelsea, Captain of Company I, 7th Michigan Cavalry, and his letter to Chelsean William Wesley Whedon about the Battle of Gettysburg, July 30, 1863, were displayed.

"In 1864 Ann Arbor voted narrowly for Lincoln, Washtenaw County went for the Democratic candidate, George McClellan. But hundreds turned out to hear University of Michigan president Erastus Otis Haven's memorial address the day of Lincoln's funeral.

"The Chapin family of Ann Arbor thought enough of Lincoln to place a carte-de-visite (photograph) of him in their family photograph album.

"The placement of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1837 guaranteed that one of the area's most noted "products" would be education.

U-M president Henry Philip Tappan (1805-1881) wrote a note in 1856 on stationery illustrated with a view of campus. None of the buildings visible are extant.

U-M professor and later president Haven argued for non-sectarian public schools in 1853 but he "clearly expected those schools to maintain Christian values. His speeches not infrequently found their way into print, a good deal of the "Increased Mental Activity of the Age,' 1854, was Haven's own."

An 1896-97 catalogue from Ann Arbor High School, considered one

of the finest schools in the state, was shown. The school, built in 1861, burned in 1904.

A displayed "Herbarium" or scrapbook of dried flowers was prepared by Delia Miller at the State Normal School in Ypsilanti. She graduated in June, 1861, and died three months later.

The Michigan Schoolmasters Club held its first meeting in Ann Arbor in 1886, A reprint of the papers is from a possibly unique original copy. The three above items are Society possessions.

"To a frontier community,, the post office was the major link to the outside world. Prior to the railroad, post riders carried the mail once or twice a week between settlements.

"Mail was not delivered, but rather 'called for' at the Post Office. One of the reasons Anson Brown's removal of the post office to the north side of the Huron River in 1833 was so objectionable to central Ann Arbor was that it necessitated a lengthy walk to get one's mail."

Postmaster Brown waffled on the spelling of Ann Arbor/Arbour in 1834 postmarks shown. "The 'Free' was the franking privilege of members of Congress to send and receive government business letters without charge, a substantial savings when postage from Ann Arbor to Washington was 25 cents."

"Ann Arbor jumped the statehood gun by several weeks, dropping the word 'Territory' from its stamped circle postmark, December 31, 1836.

Envelopes were shown advertising Ann Arbor's Michigan Union Brewing Company, Eberbach Pharmacy and Dr. Chases' Steam Printing House.

"In the 1870's and 1880s practically every county in the midwest produced an atlas which mapped the land township by township and, offered to those willing to pay, engravings of their homes and farms.

In the 1874 Washtenaw County atlas on display one engraving of a Lima township farm included the message that all 207 acres were for sale. The Freedom township map shows the heavy German influence in the area.

Surveyor and map-maker Orange Risdon was responsible for plotting the Detroit-to-Chicago road, present day U.S. 12. An 1814 surveying text belonging to him was shown. He settled in Saline and is buried there.

An 1890's "Souvenir of Ann Arbor University" showed 20 local scenes. Many are long gone but some are still familiar—the U-M president's house, the old fire house, the Congregational, Baptist and old Unitarian Churches (at State and Huron), the old Observatory (near present U-M hospital) and the DKE chapter house or "shant," 611 East William Street.

OBSCURE 'PATRIOT WAR' WAS PRETTY EXCITING IN THESE PARTS BACK IN 1837-38, LETTERS SHOW

The little-known "Patriot War" with Canada in 1837-38 is dramatized and brought right to Ann Arbor's doorstep by letters in the University of Michigan's Clements Library.

Michigan Governor Stevens T. Mason wrote Ann Arbor's Captain Edward Clark directing him to raise a company of riflemen in the county and report to Gibraltar on the Detroit River the following Monday, even if he had to draft some. The letter is dated "Detroit, Feby. 10, 1838."

There was political unrest in Canada. William Lyon Mackenzie, a Canadian journalist and reformer, led an unsuccessful attempt to capture Toronto in December 1837.

Failing, he fled to Buffalo where he was welcomed and offered American money and manpower to harrass Canadian authorities. Guerilla bands of refugee Canadians and sympathetic Americans conducted frequent raids into Canada.

About a month before Mason's letter, Detroiter Augustus S. Porter wrote his brother Albert at Niagara Falls about one of the raids.

The Wayne county "gaol" was broken into at night, a quantity of government muskets stolen, put aboard a stolen schooner and carried to the "Patriot camp" at the mouth of the Detroit River.

A deputy marshall with 30 armed men gave chase in a chartered ferryboat but the schooner commander was "backed by an array on the decks of his whole band of 200 completely armed and equipped with new U.S. muskets, to say nothing of a six-pounder well loaded with grape and canister which was very carelessly pointed and particularly regarded by a fellow standing by with a slow match in his hand."

The marshall withdrew. In a few days, 200 troops were mustered and sent on two steamboats to the mouth of the river.

That drove the Patriots to an invasion. They landed their whole force —about 400—on Bois Blanc (now Bob-Lo) Island that night.

The stolen schooner had on board three cannon, about 300 stands of muskets, a large quantity of provisions and ammunition. Patriot General Sutherland ordered the schooner to anchor just below Bois Blanc and cover with her cannon the landing of the Patriots on the Canada shore.

Those on board—35 or 40—"interested only in firing their big guns, forgot the management of the vessel, which to their dismay, grounded."

"They were immediately briskly fired into by a force of 100 or so concealed on shore behind some fences and bushes.

"The cry of 'quarter' and capture of the schooner ensued immediately, some five aboard killed and the rest taken prisoner.

"The Patriots were on Bois Blanc, witnesses of the whole affair, but their artillery was all in the vessel and they could do nothing.

"Detroit, however, is filled with these adventurers, who walk our streets in uniform wearing in their hats or caps the tri-colored cockade, and who talk mysteriously about furtive operations."

"The current of popular feeling (sympathy for the Canadian rebels) is such that our officers hardly make an effort to assert the supremacy of the laws and when they do it fails."

"They are at this moment drilling opposite us a body of 200 or so (I have just counted them through a spy glass) among whom are a few Indians."

THANKS, BOOTH HELPERS

WCHS had a booth at the Art Fair by the U-M Engineering Arch to bring its cause before the public and premiere its 1986 calendar.

Thanks are due volunteer attendants Patricia Austin, Frances Couch, Elizabeth Dusseau, Marguerite Harms, Gary Kuehnle, Lucy Kooperman, Jim Parker, Davd Pollock, Nancy Schuon, Walter Schlecht, Kathy Sutton, Galen Wilson, Lawrence and Alice Ziegler.

OPEN HOUSE TO SHOW KEMPF REMODELING

Kempf House has been going "back to its future" this summer and the public is invited to an open house there at 8 p.m. Sunday, September 22, to see the results.

The hallway of the "little Greek temple" at 312 South Division has been remodeled to reflect the original Greek Revival style. A non-original closet was ripped out and new paint, border and curtains added.

Also a ramp has been installed to make the house handicap accessible.

This is also a "kick-off" to an effort to form a friends of Kempf House association.

CHILD CRAFTS PLANNED AT FALL FESTIVAL

Children will be able to decorate cookies and participate in other crafts at Cobblestone Farm Association's Fall Festival 1-4 p.m. Sunday, September 22, at the farm, 2781 Packard Road, Ann Arbor.

This year admission will be charged but it will include a tour of the house, refreshments and a hayride, as well as adult craft exhibits and musical entertainment including dulcimer playing. A bake sale is also planned.

'COOK IT LIKE IT WAS' BOOK ON SALE AT MILAN

Milan Historical Society's new 177-page spiral bound "Cook It Like It Was" Cookbook is now on sale at $6.50 plus $1 postage and handling by mail.

Send check to Milan Area Historical Society, Hack House, 775 County Street, Milan, MI 48160. For more information call Lorene Burger, 439-8355.

MARKING ANNIVERSARY? CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Washtenaw County Historical Society offers recognition certificates on milestone anniversaries—usually 50 to 150 years—to county organizations, free of charge, including frame if desired.

If your church, school, community, club, business or whatever is marking 50, 75, 100 or more years in the county this year, please call 663-8826 or write to: Certificates, 537 Riverview Drive, AnnArbor, MI 48104.

19TH CENTURY TOOL CHEST, TIN SITZ BATH, LINENS, PAPERS GIVEN, CLIPPINGS RECALL 1887 MURDER

A large carpenter tool chest and a tin bath tub (sitz type) circa 1850-60 are among recent gifts to the Society.

Coleman Jewett presented the tool chest he bought from the Inglis estate to WCHS. It is on loan for display at Cobblestone Farm.

The chest belonged to Andrew Franklin Smith, born Detroit 1853, father of Katherine Inglis (Mrs. David).

After the family shoe and boot manufacturing business declined and a stint as a traveling shoe salesman, A.F. decided to farm near Ann Arbor in 1894. The family home at 2103 Geddes remained their home for the rest of their lives.

As the city grew toward them, Smith developed Highland, Concord and La Fayette Roads. The Inglises built the present U-M Inglis House on Highland Road.

The Frederick E. Sleator family of 2503 Geddes Avenue gave the tin bath tub, some linens and quilts and a circa 1840 portrait of a girl, unidentified. The tub has a round tin chair back and a hook on the back for hanging.

A box of paper memorabilia given the Society by Mrs. M.D. Latson was forwarded to us by Martha Burton, daughter of Ethelyn Morton. There are some 1860's account books from New York state, mortgages and something from Amos Drake's pharmacy.

The Rev. V. John Shankland of Rancho Cordova, California, gave some clippings concerning the murder of Jimmy Richards in 1897 in Superior Township with an 1866 letter from Richards' mother in England and a couple of sticks the hermit notched to keep track of the days.

FOR THREE 19TH CENTURY MANCHESTER BROTHERS, ONE A 'U-M LAW,' C-I-R-C-U-S SPELLED GLAMOUR

For many in the 19th century glamour was spelled c-i-r-c-u-s. Most of us have heard stories of young men running off with the circus.

We don't know that they ran off, but three McMahon brothers from Manchester, one of them a graduate of the U-M law school, joined the circus.

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Holland-McMahon Circus, organized in Delevan, Wisconsin, in 1885, was celebrated there July 23, Margaret Sias of Chelsea tells us.

According to the *Delavan Enterprise,* John S. McMahon, 31, was already a "versatile equestrian, leaper and hurdler" when he and George F. Holland of Delevan, another performer, organized their own circus. John's brother Charles, "a stellar equestrian leaper" also joined.

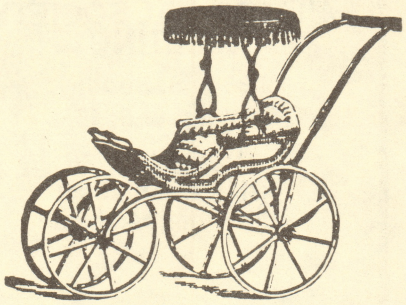
Formed late in the year, the circus planned to operate in the south from a charter steamboat after an initial three-week stand in Chicago. But in the early hours of November 6, 1885, their steamboat collided with another on the Ohio River in Indiana and sank. Only two men drowned but most of the animals and equipment were lost.

When they returned to Delavan to start over, the McMahons' younger brother, Joe, assumed managerial reins. Born May 27, 1862, in Manchester, Joe earned a law degree from the U-M in 1884.

Holland was occupied full time breaking in a new horse act and was glad to turn over administrative duties to Joe although he later regretted it. Holland wanted an honest, wholesome show but Joe McMahon brought in "grift." The partnership broke up but Joe continued active in circus grift until shot and killed in Wichita in 1897.

Joe was buried in Delavan but Mrs. Sias thinks John and Charles may have been buried in Ann Arbor and is looking for more information about them.

She knows that before the McMahons moved to Manchester they lived near Ann Arbor and a couple of the family attended the former Hagen School on Dhu Varren Road. She may be reached at 475-1076.



ART FAIR PARKING NETS SOCIETY $1,173 THANKS GLFS, HELPERS

WCHS was fortunate to get permission again to park cars at the Great Lakes Federal Savings parking lots on Washington Street in off-business hours during the July Art Fair and it netted $1,173.61.

Three members of Westminster Presbyterian Church youth group, recruited by Nancy Schuon, helped during hours the Society lacked enough volunteers and their group shared in a per capita basis in the total income of $1,500.

Society volunteers were Cal Foster, Carol Freeman, Marguerite Harms, Karen and Bob Murphy, Pete Rocco, Mrs. Schuon, Dean Smith, Galen Wilson and Alice and Lawrence Ziegler.

Youth group volunteers were Doug Buhrer, Warren Gates and Julie Chamberlain.

'WHAT IS IT?' GAME AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

Washtenaw County Historical Society offers two traveling exhibits of small artifaccts set up as a humorous "What Is It?" game — one for children, one for adults.

They are available for school classes and group affairs, subject to time and volunteer availability. For information call Patricia Austin, 663-5281. One was recently used at the Milan Centennial.

NOTECARDS FEATURE 19TH CENTURY SHIPS

Watercolor sketches of Great Lakes ships by a 19th century sea captain, James Van Cleve, have been reproduced in notecard form by Clements Library for sale in packets of 8 (4 scenes), $5, at the library, 909 South University Avenue, Ann Arbor.

CLEMENTS LAUNCHES NEW HISTORY MAGAZINE

Ever hear about the remarkable Gormagunt or the Revolutionary-era Boston town bull (not a dog) or Sir Henry Clinton's favorite vegetables while he commanded the British Army in America as it tried to subdue the unruly colonists?

You would if you read the Clement's Library's recently launched *The American Magazine and Historical Chronicle.*

The first semi-annual issue was Spring-Summer 1985. It is patterned after 18th and 19th century periodicals. Dr. John C. Dann, library director, is editor and John. C Harriman, managing editor. Ann Arbor cookbook collector Jan Longone has a column.

It is free to members of Clements Library Association. Membership in CLA is a $25-or-more tax deductible contribution to be used exclusively for purchase of historical materials.

CO-PRESIDENTS HEAD NORTHFIELD SOCIETY

Rusty Towers and Tom O'Brien are serving as co-presidents of the Northfield Township Historical Society following the resignation of Bobby Britt who was elected to a statewide office in Kiwanis.

Mrs. Towers is a teacher at Clague Intermediate School in Ann Arbor. O'Brien practices law with his wife Darlene and father Judge Francis L. O'Brien in Ann Arbor.

Tom, who was chairman of the Ann Arbor Bicentennial Commission, lives on the family centennial farm on East Five Mile Road.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Mailing: Lucy Kooperman, 668-7174
Published September to May except January and February

$285 GIVEN TO ETHELYN MORTON MEMORIAL FUND

Family and friends of Ethelyn Servis Morton, who died suddenly April 6, have given $285 in her memory to WCHS. It has been added to the museum fund.

A memorial resolution outlining her many contributions to the Society was adopted at the annual meeting with a copy to be sent to her children.

She was secretary and corresponding secretary a total of 11 years when she was made an honorary life member and director-at-large.

1985-86 SCHEDULE WCHS MEETINGS

Sunday, September 8, 1985, 2:30 p.m., Tuomy House

Thursday, October 17, 1985, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 14, 1985, 6:30 p.m., fall potluck, Christian Reformed Church on Broadway.

Sunday, December 8, 1985, 2:30 p.m. Clements Library, Christmas reception.

Sunday, March 9, 1986, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17, 1986, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21, 1986, 6:30 p.m., spring potluck, annual meeting.

Saturday, June 14, 1986, annual tour.

Please note variety of days and times and mark your calendar.

Meetings at American Legion unless otherwise noted.

BILL DARWIN RESIGNS

Bill Darwin, a Chelsea area antiques dealer, resigned as a director-at-large because of the press of other duties. He was appointed last fall.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 8, 1985

TUOMY HOUSE
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Ann Arbor, Michigan

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